

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 02586 100833Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00
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AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBAMSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, OCON, NG
SUBJECT: NIGER HOSTS ISLAMIC CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS JUNE 1-3

1. KICKING OFF A BUSY CONFERENCE WEEK IN NIAMEY, THE GON
HOSTED A SPECIAL MEETING OF ISLAMIC SCHOLARS TO EXPLORE THE
MEANING OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ISLAM. ORGANIZED UNDER THE
AUSPICES OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION AND BILLED
MORE AS A SCHOLARLY "SEMINAR" THAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE,
REPS FROM SOME TWELVE COUNTRIES ATTENDED INCLUDING EQYPT, UNITED
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PAGE 02 NIAMEY 02586 100833Z

ARABL EMIRATES, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SUDAN, TUNISIA, TURKEY,
MALAYSIA, MAURITANIA, PAKISTAN, MORROCCO, AND NIGER. INVITEES FROM
THE MORE RADICAL, VOCAL MUSLIM COUNTRIES, SUCH AS LIBYA,
ALGERIA AND IRAQ, WERE ABSENT.

2. AS YET UNPUBLISHED SESSION RECOMMENDATIONS TOUCH ON FIVE
MAIN TIPICS. THE SEMINARISTS SUGGESTED THAT A CODUMEM BE

DRAWN UP CLEARLY DESCRIBING ISLAMIC COMMITMENT TO THE BROAD SPECTRUM OF HUMAN RIGHTS: INDIVIDUAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, SOCIAL. SECOND, AN OBJECTIVE COMPARISON SHOULD BE MADE BETWEEN PRESENT INTERNATIONALLY HELD INTERPRETATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO THAT UPHELD IN ISLAMIC THOUGHT. THIRD, EXAMINATION OF NON-MUSLIM TREATMENT OF MUSLIM MINORITIES INDICATED THAT "CERTAIN" COUNTRIES WERE ENGAGED IN HARMFUL PRACTICES AND POLICIES WHICH, THE SEMINARISTS SAID, MUST BE CORRECTED. SPECIFIC NAMES, HOWEVER, WERE NOT INCLUDED. FOURTH, HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PALESTINIANS MUST BE RESTORED INCLUDING THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION. FINALLY, THEY CONDEMNED THE GROSS VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND CALLED FOR THEIR SPEEDY RESTORATION.

3. DESPITE OSTENSIBLE INTEREST BY GON FOR SESSION'S SUCCESS, GOVERNMENT PREOCCUPATION WITH IMPORTANT AFRO-ARAB COMMISSION ON COOPERATION CONFERENCE SCHEDULED ON SEMINAR HEELS LIMITED ITS FINAL IMPACT. LOCAL PUBLICITY SURROUNDING THE 3 DAY CONFERENCE WAS SPOTTY AND ORIGINAL SESSION SITE WAS PRE-EMPTED TO FACILITATE AFRO-ARAB CONFERENCE PREPARATION.

COMMENT: THE SEMINARISTS CAREFUL AND LARGELY A POLITICAL APPROACH PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE FINAL DOCUMENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE USSR, CHINA, CERTAIN EASTERN COUNTRIES AND GREECE WERE IDENTIFIED BY NAME DURING DISCUSSION AS THE PRINCIPLE VIOLATORS OF MUSLIM MINORITY RIGHTS BUT NOT SINGLED OUT IN THE FINAL DRAFT. EVEN SPECIFIC CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 NIAMEY 02586 100833Z

APPARENTLY EXERCISED IN THE FINAL SEMINAR DOCUMENT. JAMES

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